

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1567

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012

LEAKAGES IN PDS

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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding the quantum and value of foodgrains and other Public Distribution System (PDS) items lost due to diversion/leakage and pilferage during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has identified the areas/regions where such diversions/leakages are assessed to be the maximum;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Union Government has received any suggestions/recommendations from various sources including the State Governments for revamping the PDS to make it more efficient and responsive in order to plug the loopholes and check diversion; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto along with the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (c): Evaluation studies on functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are conducted by the Department from time to time. These studies have revealed certain shortcomings/deficiencies in the functioning of TPDS such as leakages/diversion of foodgrains etc.

Evaluation study on functioning of TPDS in respect of 14 States/UTs was conducted by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), for which survey was carried out by IIPA during 2007-08. State-wise details of leakages/diversion of foodgrains given in IIPA reports in respect of 6 States are at Annexure-I and in respect of 8 States are at Annexure-II. However, details regarding the quantum and value of foodgrains lost due to diversion/leakage, pilferage, etc. in the last three years have not been given in the said reports or maintained in the Department. The study reports received have been sent to concerned State/Union Territories (UTs) for taking necessary remedial measures.

(d) & (e): Strengthening and streamlining of the TPDS is a continuous process. In consultation with the State/UT Governments, a Nine Point Action Plan was evolved in 2006, which, inter alia includes continuous review of Below Poverty Line (BPL)/Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) list and to eliminate bogus/ineligible ration cards along with strict action to be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. To improve functioning of TPDS, States/UTs have also been advised to ensure timely availability of foodgrains at Fair Price Shops, greater transparency in functioning of TPDS, improved monitoring and vigilance at various levels and introduction of new technologies such as Computerization of TPDS operations at various levels.